

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 144707  
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00  
FCC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-20 COME-00 BIB-01  
H-02 /062 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TD:ALFREEMAN:PB  
APPROVED BY EB/TD:ALFREEMAN  
EUR/NE - MR. DUFOUR WOOLFLEY  
NTIA - MISS AHERN (INFO)  
FCC - MR. GREENBURG (INFO)  
-----105273 080654Z /12  
R 072305Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 144707

FOR CLAY BLACK

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:ETEL, UK

SUBJECT: MARITIME SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS - INMARSAT

REF: STATE 28836

1. REFTEL CONTAINED LETTER FOR DELIVERY TO UK POST OFFICE WHICH HAD CONVENED MEETING IN BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND (APRIL 10-14) FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT TO BE THE BASIS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL COMMERCIAL MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM. FOLLOWING BOURNEMOUTH MEETING, WHICH U.S. COMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES AND USG DID NOT ATTEND, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOEL BILLER RECEIVED LETTER FROM PAUL REEVEY, U.K. POST OFFICE, IN WHICH, IN HIS CAPACITY AS SECRETARIAT FOR THE MEETING, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 144707

HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ATTEND FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.

2. REEVEY'S LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO BILLER BY U.K. EMBASSY WASHINGTON, AND ON JUNE 7, BILLER HANDED REPLY, FOR DELIVERY TO REEVEY, TO UK EMBASSY COMMERCIAL MINISTER. TEXT OF REPLY, FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWS:

"THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME THE DOCUMENTS OF THE BOURNEMOUTH MEETING. I READ THEM WITH INTEREST, NOTING PARTICULARLY THE DESIRE OF THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THE U.S. REJOIN THE JOINT VENTURE DISCUSSIONS. I REGRET THAT I CANNOT AT THIS TIME GIVE YOU ANY ASSURANCES IN THIS REGARD.

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE CAREFULLY DEFINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS WITH RESPECT TO THE PLANNING, FINANCING AND OPERATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN A POSITION TO REQUIRE THE CARRIERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT VENTURE DISCUSSIONS, NOR WOULD IT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ITSELF TO ATTEND THE JOINT VENTURE MEETINGS EVEN IN AN OBSERVER ROLE.

WHILE I CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE U.S. CARRIERS, MY VERY STRONG BELIEF IS THAT THEIR DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT VENTURE MEETINGS AT THIS TIME DOES NOT INDICATE A LACK OF INTEREST IN THOSE MEETINGS. THE CURRENT DECISION BY THE CARRIERS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THE DESIGNATION OF A U.S. ENTITY FOR INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE SERVICE  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 144707

AND THE FACT THAT A DECISION REGARDING THE U.S. ENTITY IS NOT FINAL. WHILE WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE DESIGNATED ENTITY QUESTION AND SOME OTHER RELEVANT QUESTIONS WILL BE RESOLVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I DOUBT THAT EVENTS WILL MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO RESULT IN U.S. CARRIER PARTICIPATION AT THE STAVANGER MEETING OR EVEN THE COVENTRY MEETING.

I REGRET THAT THESE PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN, BUT I DO NOT WANT YOU TO INFER FROM THEM THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTEREST IN THE JOINT VENTURE MEETINGS. I RECENTLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, WHICH WAS CONSIDERING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PERMIT THE U.S. TO JOIN INMARSAT, THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL JOINT UNDERTAKING IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS SINCE PASSED A BILL DESIGNATING A U.S. ENTITY FOR MARITIME SATELLITE SERVICE AND PERMITTING THE U.S. TO JOIN INMARSAT. THE SENATE IS NOW CONSIDERING SIMILAR ACTION. I AM HOPEFUL THAT FINAL LEGISLATION WILL BE ENACTED THIS SUMMER AND THAT THE U.S. WILL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS REGARDING A SUCCESSOR TO THE CURRENT

MARISAT SYSTEM.

PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED OF JOINT VENTURE DEVELOPMENT. I,  
IN TURN, WILL KEEP YOU FULLY ADVISED OF RELEVANT DEVELOP-  
MENTS IN THE U.S. " VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, SATELLITES, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE144707  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ALFREEMAN:PB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780239-0307  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780684/aaaacuoj.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** dbcfcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 28836  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2448050  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARITIME SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS - INMARSAT  
**TAGS:** ETEL, UK, US, INMARSAT  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dbcfcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014